

Honorable members of the Maryland Senate Finance Committee;

I urge a favorable report on SB 0880, "Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2022".

I live in Pasadena, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and our community is bracketed and woven through with state roads, such as MD 173, Fort Smallwood; MD 177, Mountain; MD 648, B&A Boulevard; MD 607, Magothy Bridge; and so on.

Most of the state roads mentioned here are remarkable in their paucity of sidewalks and bike paths, or even bike lanes. A few, such as Fort Smallwood and Magothy Bridge also have narrow bridges, making pedestrian or bike traffic unsafe and ill-advised.

Combined, these mean less opportunities to walk from place to place in Pasadena; less opportunities to bike; and more need for an automobile even for short errands.

For example, the wonderful county B&A trail is only about 5 miles from my house -- but with no safe route to get there, I drive to the ranger station, park, and go for a ride. As another, Pasadena is home to many beautiful parks -- Ft. Smallwood Park, Kinder Farm Park, Lake Waterford, Downs Park -- none of which are readily and safely accessible by foot or by bike.

SB 0880 will offer \$10 million per year for bike improvements, \$80 million/year for safety improvements, and \$10 million for sidewalks, while encouraging the acquisition of federal funds to further these endeavors.

Those will translate into more walkable and bikeable communities across Maryland, and I could hope, Pasadena.

Thank you for your time.

John Jasen
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